



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Applicant(s): Bernard Massie et al
Serial No: Unknown
Filing Date: Herewith
Examiner: Donna C. Wortman Art Unit: 1648
Title: Adenovirus Mutants with Deleted Protease Gene...
Docket No: 10890-1C

September 5, 2003

To: The Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
U.S.A.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

IN THE SPECIFICATION :

On page one of the existing application amend the cross-reference to related applications, as follows.

This application is a Divisional of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/843,949 filed 04/30/2001, the entire content of which is incorporated by reference in this application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please renumber claims 50-69 as 1-20.

REMARKS

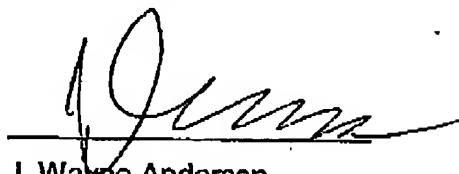
By this Preliminary Amendment, we have re-numbered the non-elected claims 50-69 of the parent application to 1-20 of this application, and have amended their dependencies, accordingly.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

We enclose a copy of the re-numbered claims.

We look forward to Examination of the amended application.

Respectfully submitted,



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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An adenoviral expression library comprising a plurality of recombinant adenoviruses, each recombinant adenovirus being deleted for an essential gene of a late transcriptional region of adenoviral genome and having the essential gene expressibly cloned in a second transcriptional region of adenoviral genome, each recombinant adenovirus further comprising an expressible piece of exogenous DNA.
2. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 1, wherein the essential gene of a late transcriptional region is the gene of adenovirus protease.
3. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 2, wherein the second transcriptional region is an early transcriptional region.
4. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 3, wherein the early transcriptional region is selected from the group consisting of E1, E2, E3 and E4 transcriptional regions.
5. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 4, wherein the early transcriptional region is E1 transcriptional region.
6. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 2, wherein the essential gene is a part of a first expression cassette.
7. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 6, wherein the expressible piece of exogenous DNA is a part of the first expression cassette.

8. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 7, wherein the first expression cassette is a dicistronic cassette.

9. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 8, wherein the first expression cassette comprises a regulatable promoter.

10. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 9, wherein the regulatable promoter is an inducible promoter.

11. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 10, wherein the inducible promoter is a tetracycline-inducible promoter.

12. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 2, wherein the expressible piece of exogenous DNA is a part of a second expression cassette.

13. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 12, wherein the second expression cassette comprises a regulatable promoter.

14. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 13, wherein the regulatable promoter is an inducible promoter.

15. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 14, wherein the inducible promoter is a tetracycline-inducible promoter.

16. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 2, wherein the expressible piece of exogenous DNA is derived from a DNA library.

17. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 2, wherein the expressible piece of exogenous DNA is a DNA fragment expressing antisense RNA fragment for a protein gene or a cis-acting element regulating gene expression.

18. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 17, wherein the cis-acting element regulating gene expression is selected from the group consisting of promoters (TATA boxes), enhancers, suppressers, IRES, polyA, termination sequences, and UTR sequences of messages that regulate the stability and/or transport of mRNA.

19. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 2, said library having diversity of at least 10^3 clones.

20. An adenoviral expression library according to claim 13, said library having diversity of at least 10^6 clones.